

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 NIC-01 NEA-14 DRC-01 /131 W

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P R 050955Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3044

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STOCKHOLM 4467

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN, XF, SW

SUBJECT: PLO APPEARANCE AT 29TH UNGA

1. I CALLED ON FOREIGN MINISTER SVEN ANDERSSON TODAY, FOLLOWING HIS RETURN FROM NEW YORK. ANDERSSON EXPRESSED DEEP SATISFACTION OVER HIS SUCCESSFUL MEETING AT UN WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER AND REPEATED SECRETARY'S COMMENT THAT MEETING SYMBOLIZED RETURN TO NORMAL OF US-SWEDISH RELATIONS. I INDICATED THAT WE WERE ALSO PLEASED AT OUTCOME OF MEETING AS WELL AS WITH ANDERSSON'S COMMENT TO PRESS AFTERWARDS THAT VIETNAM IS NO LONGER A SOURCE OF IRRITATION IN US-SWEDISH RELATIONS AND THAT OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS ARE NOW "GOOD."

2. ANDERSSON THEN LAUNCHED INTO DISCUSSION OF QUESTION OF INVITATION TO PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION (PLO) TO SPEAK AT UNGA. HE SAID SWEDES WERE TRYING TO HAMMER OUT A POSITION ON THIS QUESTION AND THAT THEREFORE HE WANTED TO HEAR MY VIEWS. AS SWEDISH GOVERNMENT SEES IT, ANDERSSON SAID, MAIN QUESTION IS WHETHER THERE IS ANY POINT
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IN HAVING A STRONG MINORITY VOTE AGAINST SUCH AN INVITA-

TION WHEN IT IS CLEAR THAT A MAJORITY IN UNGA FAVORS SUCH AN INVITATION (HE ESTIMATED THAT AT LEAST 60 NATIONS NOW SUPPORT INVITATION). ON OTHER HAND, ANDERSSON CONTINUED, SWEDES REALIZE THAT SUCH AN INVITATION WOULD SET A DANGEROUS PRECEDENT FOR UN. THEREFORE, HE ASKED, SHOULD SWEDEN, TOGETHER WITH OTHER NATIONS OPPOSED TO INVITATION (SUCH AS US) EXPRESS A STRONG MINORITY OPPOSITION AGAINST THE INVITATION AND THEN, IN EFFORT TO ACHIEVE CONSENSUS, VOTE SUBSEQUENTLY TO GO ALONG WITH THE MAJORITY ON THE INVITATION. HE ADDED THAT JUDGED ON MERITS OF CASE, POLO CLAIM TO SPEAK WAS WEAK. ANDERSSON SAID GOS HAD BEEN PREPARED TO BACK APPEARANCE OF CABRAL AT UNGA TO SPEAK FOR GUINEA-BISSAU, BECAUSE CABRAL'S GOVERNMENT CONTROLLED TERRITORY AND SUBSTANTIAL PART OF POPULATION, WHILE PLO HAS NO TERRITORY AND IT IS BY NO MEANS CLEAR IT REPRESENTS ALL PALESTINIANS.

3. I ASKED ANDERSSON WITH WHOM HE HAD DISCUSSED QUESTION IN NEW YORK, AND HE REPLIED THAT HE HAD SPOKEN WITH ISRAELIS, WHO STRONGLY OPPOSED INVITATION, AND WITH GROMYKO, WHO HAD COMMENTED RATHER OBLIQUELY THAT THERE WERE MANY PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATIONS, NOT JUST PLO. ANDERSSON ADDED THAT FRENCH FONMIN SAUVAGNARGUES IS PROCEEDING TO BEIRUT TO MEET ARAFAT.

4. AFTER ANDERSSON HAD FINISHED, I COMMENTED THAT AN INVITATION TO PLO WOULD CERTAINLY NOT MAKE ANY EASIER THE SECRETARY'S EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE PEACE IN THE MIDEAST. I SAID WE BELIEVE THAT THE LEGITIMATE INTERESTS OF THE PALESTINIANS MUST BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN ANY FINAL SETTLEMENT IN THE MIDEAST, BUT I DID NOT BELIEVE INVITATION TO PLO WOULD CONTRIBUTE TO ACHIEVING SUCH A RESULT. ANDERSSON INTERJECTED AT THIS POINT THAT, IN ADDITION, IT WOULD FURTHER COMPLICATE KING HUSSEIN'S POSITION BY IMPLYING RECOGNITION OF PLO AS SPOKESMAN FOR ALL PALESTINIANS.

5. I CONCLUDED MY REMARKS WITH POINT THAT IN FINAL ANALYSIS, GOS WOULD HAVE TO WEIGH ADVANTAGES OF ACCOMMODATING ARABS ON THE ONE HAND AGAINST THE MERITS OF THE CASE ON THE OTHER, KEEPING IN MIND THE DANGEROUS PRECED-

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ENT WHICH WOULD BE CREATED IF INVITATION EXTENDED TO PLO. FINALLY, I STRESSED AGAIN POINT THAT UNGA SHOULD DO NOTHING TO COMPLICATE SECRETARY'S EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE PEACE IN MIDEAST.

6. COMMENT: ANDERSSON SEEMED SOMEWHAT FLUSTERED BY THE PROBLEM OF THE PLO. HE HAD, OF COURSE, JUST RETURNED FROM HIS FIRST VISIT TO THE UN AND, IN FACT, TO THE US.,

AND THE EXPERIENCE MAY HAVE BEEN SOMEWHAT OVERWHELMING FOR HIM. HE SEEMED TO SINCERELY WANT MY VIEWS ON THE PLO QUESTION, WHICH RAISED THE THOUGHT IN MY MIND THAT HE MAY NOT HAVE BEEN COMPLETELY SATISFIED WITH THE INFORMATION HE WAS GETTING FROM HIS OWN CHANNELS AND WANTED AN OUTSIDE OPINION. I RAN THROUGH THE BACKGROUND OF THE MIDEAST CONFLICT WITH HIM, IN AN EFFORT TO PLACE THE ISSUE IN A BROADER PERSPECTIVE THAN HE MAY HAVE VIEWED IT HERETOFORE.

I WAS INTRIGUED BY ANDERSSON'S SUGGESTION THAT THE NATIONS OPPOSED TO THE INVITATION VOTE AGAINST IT AND THEN SUBSEQUENTLY SUPPORT IT TO CREATE THE IMPRESSION OF "CONSENSUS." THIS STRUCK ME AS A TYPICALLY SWEDISH APPROACH OF AVOIDING CONFRONTATION. I OBSERVED TO HIM THAT THE UNGA COULD HARDLY ACHIEVE A CONSENSUS ON THE PLO INVITATION IF NATIONS SUCH AS ISRAEL CONTINUED TO OPPOSE IT, AND HE PROMPTLY CONCEDED THIS POINT.

OBTAININGLY, THE SWEDES BELIEVE THE MERITS OF THE CASE DO NOT JUSTIFY A PLO INVITATION, AND THEY ARE WORRIED ABOUT THE IMPLICATIONS FOR THE FUTURE OF THE UN OF SUCH A MOVE. ON THE OTHER HAND, THEY HAVE NO DESIRE TO BE OUT FRONT IN ANTAGONIZING THE ARABS, AND PARTICULARLY THE OIL PRODUCING NATIONS.

USUN MAY WISH TO PURSUE THIS MATTER FURTHER WITH SWEDISH DELEGATION.
STRAUSZ-HUPE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INVITATIONS, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: kelleyw0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STOCKH04467
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740282-1046
From: STOCKHOLM
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741069/aaaacgpy.tel
Line Count: 144
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: kelleyw0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 MAY 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <25-Sep-2002 by kelleyw0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PLO APPEARANCE AT 29TH UNGA
TAGS: PFOR, XF, SW, UN, PLO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005